

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

SPECIAL SESSION OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. with the following members present, Mr. Burfoot, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, Ms. Williams and Mr. Winn. Mr. Protogyrou was absent.

He thereupon called for the first item of business.

AGENDA OVERVIEW

The City Manager complimented staff on last Friday's Meet, Greet and Imagine Granby Street. The Mayor also commended staff. Councilwoman Williams suggested a holiday party.

COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilman Riddick expressed concerns about safety related to truck traffic on Hampton Boulevard. He asked the City Manager to take a look at it and to add the topic to the retreat agenda. In addition, Councilman Winn asked to enforce ordinances on Hampton Boulevard truck traffic.
2. Councilman Winn asked: a) to discuss at the retreat how Norfolk can be the best city to do business in and to locate a business, and b) is there matching money for spay-neuter programs.
3. Vice Mayor Burfoot expressed concern about the Senior Tax Relief Program. He reported that seniors who have been in the program for years have been denied relief. He asked that the city offer assistance. Councilwoman Williams also expressed concerns and stated that she has received calls from citizens.
4. Vice Mayor Burfoot stated that the City needs a program to provide incentives to businesses to relocate and stay here and urged the city to endeavor to do as much business as we can with businesses located in the city.
5. Councilwoman Williams asked if there is funding to install electronic message signs in the City Hall lobby.

6. Councilman Smigiel itemized options to deter eagles and other birds from nesting and congregating near airports.

ELIZABETH RIVER CROSSING

Mr. Greg Woodsmall, CEO, Elizabeth River Crossing, updated Council on the Elizabeth River Tunnels Project. The project includes the new tube of the Midtown Tunnel; the extension of the Martin Luther King Freeway; the interchanges on I-264 and the interchanges at Brambleton Avenue and Hampton Boulevard; renovation of the existing tube at the Midtown Tunnel, and the rehabilitation of the two existing westbound and eastbound tubes at the Downtown Tunnel. The Elizabeth River Tunnels will be operated by Elizabeth River Crossings Opco and in partnership with VDOT.

The Operations and Maintenance Enhancements and Improvements include safety measures; a dedicated toll-free number to report issues; increased frequency of litter and road debris removal and an improved mowing and landscaping schedule coordinated with the City of Norfolk. Tolling is scheduled to begin February 1, 2014. Proposed rates for the E-ZPass and video tolling were provided.

Mr. Dallas Marlow, Construction Director, outlined construction details and provided a proposed timeline for all projects. In addition, Ms. Leila Rice, Public Affairs Manager, reported on the efforts by Elizabeth River Crossings Opco to support the local community.

Mr. Riddick asked: a) for a breakout of minority contracts, b) for a racial breakdown of employees, and c) is assistance being given to minority companies needing bonding.

MILITARY – VETERANS AFFAIRS INITIATIVE

John Andrews, USN, (Ret.) Special Assistant to the City Manager for Military and Veterans Services, reported a follows:

- Goal for this initiative to be the best city in the nation for military members, families and veterans.

- The objective for military affairs is to improve customer support for military and federal entities in the City and work to retain existing entities and to attract new.
- Work will also be directed to retain and attract veterans and transitioning military personnel.
- Statewide, unemployment for veterans is 10.6% but 30% for those 20-24 years of age.
- Captain Andrews will also serve as the City's liaison for local military and federal commands.
- He will also work with the Community Services Board to create support for PTSD.

ADVANTAGE INVESTMENTS

Frank Duke, Director of Planning reported as follows:

- This is an application for a General Plan Amendment, street closure and rezoning for the site of the former Estabrook Inn.
- Planning Commission recommends approval.

SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY UPDATED

Marcus Jones, City Manager, reported that after meeting with appropriate Commission, HRT and the SSA representatives, that a short term-solution will be implemented. This information will be provided to Council in their packets.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion for closed session was approved for purpose which are set out in Clause 7 of subsection (A) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as amended:

(7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefing by staff members, consultants and attorneys pertaining to one legal matter.

Yes: Burfoot, Riddick, Smigiel, Williams, Whibley, Winn and Frain.

No: None.